

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 SY-05 OMB-01 IO-13 /081 W
-----260820Z 048057 /14

R 260715Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5645
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0110

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS PINT SF
SUBJ: ATTACK ON SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S HOME: SCHOOL BOYCOTT
BEGINS TO WEAKEN

REF: CAPE TOWN 0055

1. IN EFFORT TO END THE CONTINUING BOYCOTT BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PENINSULA'S BLACK TOWNSHIPS, A GROUP OF SOME 360 HIGH SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS HELD MASS MEETING WITH STUDENTS ON FRIDAY, JAN. 21 AT GUGULETU CIVIC HALL. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS FIVE TEACHERS ADDRESSED MEETING, URGING STUDENTS TO RETURN AND GIVING ASSURANCES THAT: A) POLICE WOULD NOT ARREST ANY PUPIL WHILE AT SCHOOL, B) EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS WERE BEING PLANNED, INCLUDING NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTER, C) SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR STUDENTS WHO LEFT THEIR SCHOOLS IN THE "HOMELANDS" LAST YEAR AS GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH PENINSULA STUDENTS TO WRITE LAST YEAR'S EXAMINATIONS. STUDENTS WERE TOLD THAT THEIR COLLEAGUES WHO STILL UNDER DETENTION WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY

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TO MAKE UP LAST YEAR'S EXAMS.

2. NIGHT OF JAN. 24 A PETROL BOMB WAS REPORTEDLY THROWN INTO HOME OF PRINCIPAL OF A HIGH SCHOOL IN NYANGA, CYRIL MANDINI, DESTROYING A BED AND BEDDING ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH R400. INCIDENT FOLLOWS RECEIPT LAST WEEK BY PRINCIPALS OF THREE SCHOOLS DEMANDING CLOSURE OF

SCHOOLS AND THREATENING REPRISALS IN EVENT NON-COMPLIANCE. NEWS REPORTS THAT TWO GROUPS OF STUDENTS, ONE FAVORING RETURN AND ONE OPPOSED, WERE PREVENTED BY RIOT POLICE FROM CLASHING IN LANGA TOWNSHIP NIGHT OF JAN. 24 WERE DENIED TODAY (JAN. 25) BY POLICE COMMISSIONER. HE SAID A GROUP OF SOME 200 PEOPLE WHO GATHERED NEAR THE MIGRANT WORKERS QUARTERS IN LANGA WERE ASKED BY POLICE TO DISPERSE AND DID SO WITHOUT INCIDENT.

3. WELL-INFORMED LOCAL JOURNALIST TOLD CONGEN OFF AN ESTIMATED 600 OF THE 3,000 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTENDED SCHOOL TODAY INCLUDING MANY OF THE ESTIMATED 200 FINAL YEAR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN MOST ANXIOUS TO END BOYCOTT. THIS IS LARGEST NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ATTEND CLASSES SINCE BOYCOTT BEGAN LAST YEAR.

4. COMMENT: IT DIFFICULT TO SAY TO WHAT EXTENT INCREASED ATTENDANCE DUE TO APPEAL BY TEACHERS WITH THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENDORSE ASSURANCES GIVEN PREVIOUSLY BY BANTU EDUCATION DIRECTOR OWENS AND TO WHAT EXTENT IT DUE SIMPLY TO INCREASING BOREDOM ON PART OF MANY STUDENTS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE ELEMENTS WHO COMMITTED TO CONTINUATION OF BOYCOTT NOT LIKELY TO GIVE UP EASILY AND MORE EFFORTS AT INTIMIDATION AGAINST SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CANNOT BE RULED OUT. IN RECENT MEETING WITH SIX OF THE LEADERS OF THIS GROUP EMB, CONGEN OFFS WERE IMPRESSED WITH INTENSITY OF FEELING WITH WHICH THEY DESCRIBED ALLEGED INDISCRIMINATE AND DELIBERATE SHOOTING OF BLACKS BY THE POLICE, STRONGLY-HELD BELIEF THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO END BOYCOTT WOULD AMOUNT TO "CAPITULATION," AND CONVICTION THAT IN FORFEITING ANOTHER YEAR OF "BANTU EDUCATION" THEY WOULD BE FORFEITING SOMETHING OF LITTLE VALUE OR USE. WHETHER THIS GROUP CAN CONTINUE TO CARRY MAJORITY OF STUDENTS WITH THEM REMAINS TO BE SEEN BUT THEY WILL LIKELY HAVE FEW QUALMS IN USING VIOLENCE IF THEY CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO ADVANCE THEIR AIMS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOYCOTTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, SCHOOLS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770028-0014
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770118/aaaaapda.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b23408d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 55
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3500154
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTACK ON SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S HOME: SCHOOL BOYCOTT BEGINS TO WEAKEN
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b23408d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009